



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/979,570	11/26/2002	Marvin A. Frankel	MAF-10002/22	6028
25006	7590	01/27/2006	EXAMINER	
GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE & CITKOWSKI, P.C			AUGUSTIN, EVENS J	
PO BOX 7021			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
TROY, MI 48007-7021			3621	
DATE MAILED: 01/27/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/979,570	FRANKEL, MARVIN A.
	Examiner Evens Augustin	Art Unit 3621

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2002.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/21/2003</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

***Status of Claims***

1. Claims 1-9 have been examined.

***Abstract***

2. The abstract is objected to because of the following informalities:

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Specification***

3. The specification is objected to because of the following informalities: page 6, line 16 of the specification is referring to fig. 1, but no drawings have been submitted with this application. Figure 1 should be removed from the abstract. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shub et al. (U.S 6807530), in view of O'Leary et al. (U.S 6609113).

As per claims 1-9, Shub et al. disclose an invention that relates to techniques for controlling and limiting the flow of identification information in a commercial transaction, and more particularly to a method and apparatus which enables customers to remotely order goods from a merchant and receive the goods without revealing the customer's identity or address to the merchant. The invention comprises of the following:

- The transacting parties include the customer's bank/payment agencies, merchant and clearinghouses (column 2, lines 16-18)
- Before transacting, the customer gets a customer number/identifier from the customer's payment agency (bank or credit card company) (column 3, lines 40-47)
- Customer submitting the customer number to the online merchant (column 4, lines 25-29)
- Merchant in collaboration with a clearinghouse authenticate the buyer/customer's number (including verification of the customer's financial institution and availability of funds) (column 4, lines 40-46)
- The customer deposits/pays cash to the financial institution in exchange for an identifier (column 4, lines 10-17)
- A computer handling transactions and orders (column 4, line 53). It is inherent that a computer handling transactions will contain a computer readable medium

Shub et al. did not explicitly teach an invention in which there's an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from the user/customer/buyer's account to the merchant account. However, O'Leary et al. describe a system that relates to systems and methods for conducting electronic commerce, and more particularly to systems and method in which a payor pushes electronic

credits to a payee using an Electronic Funds Transfer system. According to O'Leary et al.'s the user is able to transfer funds from his/her bank account to another account made specifically for internet related transactions (column 16, lines 18-35). The transfer of funds takes place anonymously, with the recipient of the credit having no way to determine from where the credit originated. The recipient of the credit is able to match the received credit with a proposed purchase using a transaction ID that is contained in the EFT (column 14, lines 55-59). After a transaction, the funds get deposited from the user's account with an internet entity (seller) to the merchant's bank account (column 17, lines 10-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious for an artisan skilled in the art to combine Shub et al.'s invention with O'Leary et al.'s systems and methods because it would provide a safe, sound, and secure method that allows users (consumers) to shop on the Internet, pay bills, and pay anyone virtually anywhere, all without the consumer having to share account number information with the payee. Merchants receive immediate payment confirmation through the Electronic Funds Transfer. (EFT) network so they can ship their product with confidence that the payment has already been received (column 4, lines 43-50).

*Conclusion*

6. *Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that if the applicant is preparing to respond, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.*

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- **Hurwitz et al. (US 6748366)** - The present invention relates generally to electronic commerce systems and methods and, more specifically, to person-to-person electronic commerce transactions.
- **Boies et al. (US 6006200)** - The present invention generally relates to performing transactions with anonymity and, more particularly, to a method for providing a unique identifier for collectively electronically tagging personal data.
- **Micali (US 5812670)** - The present invention relates generally to secure transactions and, more particularly, to techniques for anonymous, yet traceable, transmission and reception of messages

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Evens Augustin whose telephone number is 571-272-6860. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8 to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jim Trammel can be reached on 571-272-6712.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-6584.

Evens J. Augustin  
January 18, 2006  
Art Unit 3621

  
Primary Examiner  
AU 3621